(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) चावल का निर्यात बढ़ाने हेतु सरकार ने क्या प्रयास किए हैं ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणव मुखर्जी) : (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1990-91, 1991-92 और 1992-93 के दौरान निर्यात किए गए चावल का मूल्य निम्नानुसार है :

(मूल्य लाख रुपए)

वर्ष	मूल्य
1990-91	46157.2
1991-92	75558.75
1992-93	97193.03

(स्रोत : डी जी सी आई एण्ड एस)

(ग) भारतीय चावल की निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाने के लिए किए गए उपायों में ये शामिल हैं : (1) चावल के आवागमन पर लगे अंतरराज्यीय प्रतिबंध को समाप्त करना और कुछ राज्य सरकारों द्वारा निर्यात किए जाने वाले सुपर फाइन गैर-बासमती चावल पर से लेवी को समाप्त किया जाना, (2) न्यूनतम निर्यात कीमतों का सुव्यवस्थीकरण, (3) निर्यातकों को निर्यात संवर्धन पूंजीगत माल योजना के तहत रियायती शुल्क पर मिलिंग उपस्कर का आयात करने की अनुमति देना; और (4) चावल निर्यातक भी 100% निर्यात अभिमुख एकक योजना का लाभ पाने के पात्र हैं ।

Import of Sugar

5297. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to import sugar;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that MMTC has already contracted for the import of sugar; and

(d) if so, the details of the contract ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) To augment the availability of sugar for domestic consumption import of sugar has been placed on OGL.

(c) and (d) As part of its commercial operations, MMTC has so far contracted for import of 78,000 M. T. of sugar.

Lack of Growth in Export of Traditional Items

5298. SHRI V. HANUMANTHARAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a lack of growth of exports of traditional items in Dollar terms;

(b) whether it is also a fact that export of traditional items from Andhra Pradesh like tobacco have not shown sufficient resilence in the face of competition from new foreign competitors; and

(c) what corrective steps are proposed to remove the structural infirmities of above mentioned traditional exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) No, Sir. Export of tradtional items have registered a growth of 21.23% in dollar terms during April-January, 1993-94, the related period for which such data are available as compared to the corresponding period in 1992-93.

(b) Statewise export data are not maintained. However, exports to tobacco have registered an increase of 11.9% in rupee terms (2% in dollar terms) during April-January 1993-94 as compared to the corresponding period in 1992-93.

(c) The Revised Exim Policy 1992-97, *inter alia*, aims at augmenting the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian agriculture industry and services so as to enhance their export potential and capabilities. It seeks to encourage the attainment of internationally accepted standards of quality and thereby improve the image of India's products abroad.

Set back to Indian Granite Exports

5299. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 318 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th April, 1994 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the imposition of 89 per cent duty on thick slabs and monuments of black granite by Canada has come as a set back to Indian granite industry, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(b) if so, whether Government would counter this politicoeconomic move by the Canadian Government and dispel the lack of understanding among the Canadians about the true status of Indian granite industry ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Canada has imposed provisional anti-dumping and countervailing duties on imports of black granite memorials and black granite slabs from India.

The investigation is continuing and a final determination is yet to be made by the Canadian authorities. Government is providing necessary permission to the Canadian authorities to clarify the correct factual position.

Sale of Gold by MMTC

5300. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has a proposal to sell 24 carat gold during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the present stock position of gold with MMTC;

(c) whether the gold would be sold in various cities of the country; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons for selling gold by MMTC ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Stock position of gold with MMTC is as under :—

(For domestic distribution)

As on 1-4-94	10.34	Kgs.
arrival of gold during April, 1994	20.00	Kgs.
TOTAL :	30.34	Kgs.